

**City of Burlington
Official Minutes
Common Council
Robert Miller, Mayor
Beverly R. Gill, City Clerk
March 2, 2010**

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. starting with roll call. Aldermen present: Robert Prailes, Ed Johnson, Peter Hintz, Jim Prailes, Tom Vos, Steve Rauch, Katie Simenson, Jeff Fischer Student members Excused: Tony Wang Absent: Bonit Gill

Staff present: City Attorney John Bjelajac, Assistant to the Administrator Megan Johnson, Fire Chief Dick Lodle, Library Director Gayle Falk, Lt. Mark Anderson, Department of Public Works Supervisor Dick Pieters, Treasurer Bridget Souffrant, Building Inspector Patrick Scherrer, Tom Foht of Kapur Engineering

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Miller led the council, staff and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

4. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Darrell Davis informed council members of the March 18th Business after Hours to be held at CPI, 1201 Milwaukee Avenue. He also discussed the Home Show/Chocolate Extravaganza to be held on Saturday, March 27th from 9-3 at Burlington High School.

5. APPROVAL OF COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

A motion was made by Hintz with a second by Simenson to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2010 Common Council Meeting. With all in favor, the motion carried.

6. LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

None

7. REPORTS BY ALDERMANIC REPRESENTATIVES & DEPARTMENT HEADS

Simenson thanked Lt. Mark Anderson for the great job he did while filling in as the interim police chief.

Simenson wanted to express her opinion on the memo that was sent out by the city administrator regarding a pay and classification study for the non-represented employees. She questioned if the study would be bid and the number of city employees that will be included in this study. The mayor replied there are approximately twenty-five such employees and it would not be put out for bid. She was against spending the seven to nine thousand dollars for the study as there doesn't seem to be a problem hiring or maintaining employees with the current wages and benefits. The mayor stated the wage increases for the non-represented employees have always mirrored the union contracts and the council wanted to pursue a different arrangement.

Bob Prailes questioned if the study would include the private sector. The mayor stated he did not think the private sector would be considered.

Simenson then questioned another study that she had voted against as it was supposed to be conducted through random phone calls to the citizens regarding city services; she had never heard the results of this study. Megan Johnson stated that she had the results of the study. The mayor then requested that the results be distributed to council members.

Simenson stated that due to an ongoing complaint regarding the condition of the roadway, she had driven to Droster Avenue to take a look at it. The Co-op side of the roadway looked good, but the other side was in bad condition. It was then determined that it wasn't the roadway that was pitted; it was actually the adjacent parking lot. Simenson wanted to advise the complainant that the roadway had actually been measured properly.

Vos questioned where the money was coming from to pay for the compensation study. The mayor replied that it was coming from the General Fund. Vos did not feel the study should be that costly as it is a matter of public record what the salaries are in every community. He further stated that the private sector should be included to take into consideration what is going on in the economy.

The mayor said that usually the public sector was paid less but received better benefits than the private sector. Through the years that had become convoluted and wages and benefits had crept upward. This study was being done to provide an in-depth look at where the city is at.

Simenson again stated that she was uncomfortable with this study as it wasn't budgeted. She did not see the reason for the study as it wasn't a do or die situation. Because of the large number of applicants for the police chief job she did not feel that more money needed to be offered than what was being paid and did not like the influence of outside sources on the council's wage decisions.

Vos then spoke about the mailbox location on Dodge Street and asked if any progress had been made with the post office in relocating this box. He said that Dodge Street is heavily used and there are more cars being parked on both sides of Dodge Street which has made it even more difficult to get to the mailbox. The mayor said the police department could take another look at the placement of the box and perhaps consider removing parking spaces.

Johnson reported on the three large boxes of Census material received that needs to be distributed to the public. Simenson suggested that it be donated to Love, Inc.

As this was the last official meeting for Bridget, The mayor thanked her for the wonderful job she had done for the city and wished her the best in her new position in Brown Deer.

8. REPORTS 1-4

A motion was made by Vos with a second by Jim Prailes to approve Reports 1-4. With all in favor, the motion carried.

9. PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

A motion was made by Rauch with a second by Hintz to approve Prepays (\$2,966,357.32), Vouchers (\$204,968.55), and Reimbursements (\$646.00) for a grand total of \$3,171,971.87 Discussion: Simenson inquired about the payment to an outside company for snow removal at the airport when there is equipment available to use. Jim Prailes stated there is no one at the airport to run the snow plow. Simenson felt it was a terrible waste of resources to own this piece of equipment and just have it sit. Vos stated the city needs to look into whether any other department can use this equipment due to the tie to Stimulus Funds. The Mayor felt there were two issues before the council with the first being the amount of money paid for the snowplowing. He reminded council that the General Fund (tax money) is not being used. The airport is a stand alone entity and funds its expenses through fuel sales. The second issue is that the tractor is very large and could not plow city streets due to its size. Simenson reiterated her concern for this waste of resources and encouraged the city to take a look at whether this equipment could be used elsewhere in the city. Roll Call Ayes: Bob Prailes, Johnson, Hintz, Jim Prailes, Vos, Rauch, Fischer, Simenson Nays: None Motion carried 8-0

10. LICENSES AND PERMITS

A motion was made by Simenson with a second by Johnson to approve the licenses as presented. With all in favor, the motion carried.

11. APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS

A motion was made by Fischer with a second by Vos to approve the appointment of City Administrator Kevin Lahner as temporary treasurer beginning March 5, 2010. With all in favor, the motion carried.

12. PUBLIC HEARINGS

“A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE CITY OF BURLINGTON’S INTENTION TO EXERCISE ITS POLICE POWER IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 66.0703, WI. STATS. AND CHAPTER 274-3 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF BURLINGTON TO LEVY SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS UPON PROPERTY WITHIN THE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT AS DESCRIBED IN RESOLUTION 4386(62)”

The mayor opened the public hearing at 7:17 p.m. There were no public comments. A motion was made by Johnson with a second by Vos to close the public hearing. With all in favor, the public hearing closed at 7:19 p.m.

13. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

A. RESOLUTION 4396(72) “A RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER AUTHORIZING SIDEWALK RECONSTRUCTION AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS WHERE COMPLAINTS WERE RECEIVED AND LEVYING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AGAINST THE BENEFITED PROPERTIES”

A request for a second reading and motion to adopt was made by Bob Prailes with a second by Simenson. Vos questioned if a homeowner could have sidewalk/apron work done at the same time by the contractor and who could they call. Foht stated that the resident should contract Wanasek who has the city contract rather than the state contractor who will be doing the utility work. Pieters reminded council members that Kane Street which is scheduled for work is on the Memorial Day Parade route. Foht said that a temporary patch could be applied on Kane Street as it was included in the contract. Roll Call Ayes: Bob Prailes, Johnson, Hintz, Jim Prailes, Vos, Rauch, Fischer, Simenson Nays: None Motion carried 8-0

B. RESOLUTION 4397(73) “A RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH SCHREIBER ANDERSON ASSOCIATES, INC., TO PREPARE A PARK, OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS PLAN FOR THE CITY OF BURLINGTON FOR THE NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$9,645”

A request for a second reading and motion to adopt was made by Johnson with a second by Bob Prailes. Roll Call Ayes: Bob Prailes, Johnson, Jim Prailes, Vos, Rauch, Fischer Nays: Hintz, Simenson Motion carried 6-0

C. RESOLUTION 4398(74) “A RESOLUTION TO CONSIDER APPROVING THE AWARD OF BID FOR THE 2010 UTILITY AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO WANASEK CORPORATION FOR THE NOT-TO-EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$413,026”

A request for a second reading and motion to adopt was made by Jim Prailes with a second by Simenson. Roll call Ayes: Bob Prailes, Johnson, Jim Prailes, Hintz, Vos, Rauch, Fischer, Simenson Nays: None Motion carried 8-0

14. ORDINANCES ADOPTED

A. ORDINANCE 1895(16) “AN ORDINANCE TO CONSIDER AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP BY REZONING PROPERTY IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF 6551 SOUTH PINE STREET FROM A-1 AGRICULTURAL/HOLDING DISTRICT TO I-1 INSTITUTIONAL DISTRICT”

A motion was made Hintz with a second by Johnson to adopt Ordinance 1895(16). Roll Call Ayes: Bob Prailes, Johnson, Hintz, Jim Prailes, Vos, Rauch, Fischer, Simenson Nays: None Motion carried 8-0

15. MOTIONS ADOPTED

None

16. OTHER MATTERS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW

Vos asked where the city was in regard to the sale of the current DPW buildings and their appraisals. He also questioned whether the building on the property on Sheldon Street could be split off. The mayor replied that the process is moving forward.

Vos requested a written opinion from the city attorney regarding what level of involvement he could have on any issues with the downtown redevelopment due to his son's involvement with the hotel project.

17. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vos with a second by Simenson to adjourn the meeting. With all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Beverly R. Gill
City Clerk
City of Burlington
Racine and Walworth Counties